

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

M
R 0 8

2
4
6
8
10
12
14
16
18
20
22
24
26
28
30
32
34
36
38
40
42
44
46

DATE: June 16, 1995 (Filing No. S- 282)

TRANSPORTATION

Reported by: Senator STEVENS of Androscoggin for the Committee.

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
117TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A " to S.P. 489, L.D. 1323, Bill, "An Act to Widen the Maine Turnpike"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the statement of fact and inserting in its place the following:

Sec. 1. 23 MRSA §1965, sub-§1, ¶D, as amended by PL 1993, c. 410, Pt. MM, §4, is further amended to read:

D. Construct, maintain, reconstruct and operate a toll turnpike from a point at or near Kittery in York County to a point at or near Augusta in Kennebec County, except that the traveled way may not be widened or expanded beyond 3 lanes for each direction of travel from Exit 1 to, and including, Exit 6A and beyond 2 lanes for each direction of travel elsewhere on the turnpike without the express approval of the Legislature.

-A- Except as provided in section 1965-A, a license, permit, or approval necessary for the widening or expansion of the turnpike may not be issued by any state agency unless that agency makes an affirmative finding that the widening or expansion is consistent with state transportation policy as well as rules implementing that policy;

Sec. 2. 23 MRSA §1965-A is enacted to read:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

REG

§1965-A. Widening of the turnpike between Exit 1 and Exit 6-A

2
4
6
8
10
12
14
16
18
20
22
24
26
28
30
32
34
36
38
40
42
44
46
48

1. Evaluation of reasonable alternatives. No later than December 15, 1996, the authority shall complete an evaluation of the reasonable alternatives specified in this subsection to widening the turnpike to 3 lanes for each direction of travel from Exit 1 to, and including, Exit 6A. To evaluate reasonable alternatives, the authority shall:

A. Convert the turnpike toll collection system to an automated electronic system designed to move traffic more efficiently through toll plazas;

B. Complete an alternative mode feasibility study that examines regional travel patterns and demographics and provides an inventory of existing transportation infrastructure and employer-based commuter programs in the study area;

C. Develop and implement a rideshare program to promote vanpooling and carpooling, including funding and completion of a park and ride facility at Exit 2; and

D. Complete a 2-year study of the effects of congestion pricing on the turnpike and travel needs of the southern part of the State.

In conducting the evaluation required by this subsection, the authority shall provide for public participation consistent with the Sensible Transportation Policy Act and the rules adopted pursuant to that Act.

Completion of the evaluation components specified in paragraphs A to D satisfies the alternative evaluation requirements of the Sensible Transportation Policy Act and of the rules adopted pursuant to that Act.

2. Review of alternatives. Upon completing the evaluation required under subsection 1, the authority shall review the alternatives to determine if the alternatives can meet the identified transportation deficiency or need in a safe manner at a reasonable cost with available technology. If, based on the evaluation, the authority finds that the alternatives do not meet the identified deficiency or need:

A. A final license, permit, or approval necessary for the widening or expansion of the turnpike may be issued by the appropriate state agency; and

R 489

2 B. The alternative evaluation and preference requirements
3 of section 73 and rules adopted pursuant to section 73 are
4 considered satisfied.

5 **Sec. 3. Maine Turnpike Authority to submit report and legislation.**
6 On or before January 15, 1996, the Maine Turnpike Authority shall
7 submit a preliminary report on the evaluation of alternatives to
8 widening the Maine Turnpike that is being conducted in accordance
9 with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 23, section 1965-A to the
10 Joint Standing Committee on Transportation. The preliminary
11 report must include a progress report on each of the evaluation
12 components and preliminary findings. On or before January 15,
13 1996, the Maine Turnpike Authority may submit legislation to
14 authorize the issuance of revenue bonds to pay the cost or a
15 portion of the cost of widening the turnpike to the Second
16 Regular Session of the 117th Legislature.'

17
18 **STATEMENT OF FACT**
19

20 This amendment allows widening of the Maine Turnpike to 3
21 lanes for each direction of travel from Exit 1 to, and including,
22 Exit 6A. It requires the Maine Turnpike Authority to complete an
23 evaluation of alternatives by December 15, 1996 and specifies
24 that evaluating the alternatives listed satisfies the
25 requirements for alternative evaluation under the Sensible
26 Transportation Policy Act and rules adopted under the Act. It
27 allows a state agency to issue a permit or license for the
28 widening if the completed evaluation indicates alternatives will
29 not meet the identified need.
30

31 It requires the Maine Turnpike Authority to submit an
32 interim report on the alternatives evaluation no later than
33 January 15, 1996. It allows the authority to submit legislation
34 no later than January 15, 1996 to authorize the issuance of
35 revenue bonds to pay for the widening.
36